

Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA)
Resident Advisory Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FCHRA RESIDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, December 16, 2004

December 16, 2004, the FCRHA Resident Advisory Council met at 3700 Pender Drive, Fairfax, VA

PRESENT: Cynthia Thompson, Nancy Vaughan, Sandie Simpson, Calvin Nokes, John Croley, Paulette Whiteside, Gulshan Khan Donna Dye, Vasanth Mba, Charlen Kyle, Jerusalem Tegbaru, and Pam Cave.

ABSENT: Khadijah Baltrop, Lisa Bathen and Jennifer Waitt.

CALL TO ORDER: Awaiting a quorum, Chairman Vaughan convened the meeting at approximately 7:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: With the correction that the minutes should have indicated the subsequent meeting as December 16, 2004, rather than December 18, 2005, Ms. Whiteside moved acceptance of the RAC meeting held on November 18, 2004. Mr. Nokes seconded. The minutes were approved subject to the noted correction.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Wever advised that the Council's letter regarding the current FCHRA five-year plan was due January 13, 2005

Taking up at page 45, **12.PHA Community Service and Self-Sufficiency Programs**, Mr. Wever continued review of the FCHRA five-year plan.

Discussion ensued concerning FCHRA self-sufficiency policies:

Mr. Croley observed that FCHRA self-sufficiency programs failed orientation to the needs of persons with disability, thereby excluding disabled person from programs in which participants were selected on the basis of preference for participation in self-sufficiency programs. Staff responded that self-sufficiency programs were intrinsically oriented to economic self-sufficiency rather than toward functional independence. Hence persons with disability self-selected against participation. Absence this self-selection, persons with disability were welcome to participate in self-sufficiency programs, notwithstanding the fact that self-sufficiency programs, by their essential nature, were geared toward economic self-sufficiency rather than toward the challenges of persons with disability. Staff further advised that persons with disability could always propose a plan geared toward their needs.

Mr. Croley reminded staff that when he had asked for staff to consider life-skills training appropriate to a brain damage survivor as an equivalent alternate to the economic-oriented self-sufficiency programs of FCHRA, so that Mr. Croley could participate in FCHRA programs, his request had been denied.

Ms. Cienki, interjected that she had checked into Mr. Croley's persistent frustration with apparent disability discrimination in the mortgage voucher pilot program. Ms. Cienki shared her finding that staff realized Mr. Croley wished to participate in the program, and were surprised when Mr. Croley did not re-submit his application.

Mr. Croley was aghast and asked in effect: Do you mean that staff wished a brain-damaged program participant to resubmit application paperwork which it already possessed, while staff knew that the brain damaged program participant wished to persist in his application? Did staff demand duplicate paperwork

for the sake of duplicate paperwork from a brain damaged program participant when staff had already destroyed the brain damaged survivor's essential physical order within his dwelling through retaliatory delays in survivor's move to a new residence?

Staff acknowledged the rigidity of their procedures beyond the expectations of people outside their organization.

Ms. Kyle, member of both the RAC and the FCHRA Board observed that someone seemed to have dropped the ball.

Then, further review of the HUD-specified format for the housing authority's annual plan demonstrated that HUD mandated "Economic and Social Self-Sufficiency programs". The HUD mandate for both economic and social self-sufficiency programs were specified in the HUD outline for the FCHRA annual plan, sub heading **12.B.(1) b. Economic and Social Self-Sufficiency programs**¹. Thus it appeared that HCD has persistently and systematically failed it's obligation to provide social self-sufficiency programs for disabled program participants.

With brief additional discussion, RAC review of the FCHRA plan update for FCHRA FY 2006 Annual Plan concluded.

Mr. Wever, talked briefly about YARDI, the new information software being implemented by HCD.

Mr. Turner, updated RAC on his plans for RAC participation in grievance process, including his plans to offer interested RAC members training by Legal Aid and training in mediation.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION:

Chairman Vaughan allowed questions by RAC members concerning FCHRA policies and procedures.

Ms. Thompson asked with specificity about HCD policies and practices in faxing program participant information to employers. Mr. Wever indicated he would follow up with Ms. Thompson.

Mr. Nokes asked with specificity about insect eradication in FCHRA housing. Mr. Wever indicated he would follow up with Mr. Nokes.

Ms. Mba asked with specificity about direct payment practices for mortgage voucher participants. Ms. Cushing indicated she would follow up.

Ms. Vaughan provided information about housing programs in Prince William County.

The Council briefly discussed its agenda for 2005. Ms. Cienki promised to provide dates for necessary tasks. She requested Mr. Croley make note of the request in the minutes as an added reminder.

Ms. Simpson moved adjournment with second by Ms. Kyle. Council concurred. Chairman Vaughan adjourned meeting at approximately 9:02 PM

Next RAC meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2005, at the FCRHA Building located at 3700 Pender Drive, Fairfax, VA.

Minutes respectfully submitted by John Croley, Secretary

¹ Page 47 of FCHRA FY 2006 Annual Plan, page 47, form HUD 50075 (03/2003)